

7 combining the decoded first audio data stream with the second audio data
8 stream.

1 12. (AMENDED) A program storage device, readable by a programmable
2 control device, comprising:

3 instructions stored on the program storage device for causing the
4 programmable control device to

5 receive a first audio data stream in a first perceptually based
6 format;

7 decode the first audio data stream into a raw format;

8 acquire a second audio data stream in the raw format; [and]

9 combine the decoded first audio data stream with the second audio
10 data stream;

11 encode the combined audio data stream into a second perceptually
12 based format; and

13 transmit the encoded combined audio data stream to a CODEC
14 circuit.

1 19. (AMENDED) A method to combine diversely encoded data streams,
2 comprising:

3 receiving a [first] video data stream in a first compressed format;

4 decoding the first data stream into an uncompressed format;

5 obtaining a second data stream in the uncompressed format; and

6 combining the decoded first data stream with the second data stream.

REMARKS

In the office action of October 25, 2000, claims 1 – 16 and 19 – 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Farhangi et al. Claims 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farhangi et al. in view of Bestler et al.

Please note that claims 1, 12, and 19 have been amended. Claims 9, 13 - 15, and 22 have been cancelled. Claim 1 now recites the limitation of former claim 9. Claim 12 now recites the limitations of former claims 12 - 15. Claim 19 now recites the limitation of former claim 22. As amended, the claims are not anticipated by the cited art.

Claim 1

Amended claim 1 recites a method "to combine diversely encoded audio data streams." A first audio data stream is received in a first perceptually based format and decoded into a linear pulse code modulated (LPCM) format, a second audio data stream is obtained in the linear pulse code modulated format, and the decoded first audio data stream is combined with the second audio data stream.

Farhangi discloses mixing audio signals having independent sources. Farhangi does not disclose receiving an audio data stream in a perceptually based format and decoding it into an LPCM format.

In "Response to Arguments," the Office Action states that, in Figure 2 of Farhangi, elements 222, 203, and 204 are input sources of signals in a raw data format. Farhangi describes these inputs as MIC-IN, CD-ANALOG, and LINE-ANALOG in the figure. Farhangi further describes element 203 as "com[ing] from serial data streams from any standard CD audio interface" (col. 3, lines 25-26).

Farhangi does not describe these or other input signals to the digital mixer 277 as "linear pulse code modulated," as recited in claim 1. Nor does Bestler teach the LPCM limitation recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is not anticipated by Farhangi, and is allowable, as amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

Claim 12

Amended claim 12 recites a program storage device comprising instructions for causing a programmable control device to receive a first audio data stream in a first perceptually based format; decode the first audio stream into a raw format; acquire a second audio stream in the raw format; encode the combined audio data stream into a

second perceptually based format; and transmit the encoded combined audio data stream to a CODEC circuit.

While Farhangi discloses a CODEC (Figure 2), an encoded combined audio data stream is not transmitted to the CODEC. Thus, at least one of the added claim limitations is not disclosed by Farhangi. Claim 12 is thus not anticipated by Farhangi. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this claim rejection.

Claim 19

Amended claim 19 recites a method to combine diversely encoded data streams, comprising receiving a video data stream in a first compressed format; decoding the first data stream into an uncompressed format; obtaining a second data stream in the uncompressed format; and combining the decoded first data stream with the second data stream.

Farhangi does not disclose combining video signals, only audio signals (title, abstract). Thus, as amended, claim 19 is not anticipated by Farhangi. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claim 19, as well as its dependent claims.

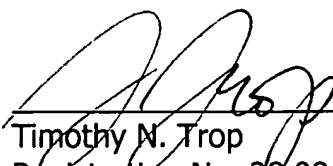
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all claim rejections in light of the above arguments. In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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